

October 21, 2002

To: Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky, Chairman  
Supervisor Gloria Molina  
Supervisor Yvonne Brathwaite Burke  
Supervisor Don Knabe  
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

From: David E. Janssen  
Chief Administrative Officer

**MOTION TO SUPPORT HR 5144, THE “CAREFUL AIRPORT PLANNING FOR SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA ACT” - (ITEM NO. 10, AGENDA OF OCTOBER 22, 2002)**

Item No. 10 on the October 22, 2002 Agenda is a motion by Supervisors Knabe and Antonovich that the Board of Supervisors support HR 5144 (Waters) and instruct the Chief Administrative Officer to send correspondence to the County’s Congressional Delegation, the two Senators from California, and President Bush, urging early enactment of this legislation.

HR 5144 was introduced by Congresswoman Maxine Waters on July 16, 2002. The bill prohibits the Secretary of Transportation from approving any revision or modification of the plan for Los Angeles International Airport (LAX) if the revision or modification could result in an increase in the number of air passengers exceeding 78 million in one year. An “air passenger” is defined as a person who boards or exits an aircraft at the airport. The bill was referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure on July 16, 2002, and to the Subcommittee on Aviation on July 17, 2002. The bill has not been scheduled for hearing and its only cosponsor is Jesse Jackson, Jr, of Illinois, where there are concerns about the expansion of O’Hare Airport.

Passenger volume forecasts, developed before the September 11, 2001 terrorist events, estimated there would be 98 million passengers at LAX by 2015. LAX planning documents, published in June 2000, included three alternative scenarios, using 97.5 million, 105.7 million, and 96.5 million passengers, respectively. According to LAX, its actual passenger volume dropped from 67.3 million in 2000, to 61.6 million in 2001 – an 8.46 % decline. There has been a further decline of 16.3% from January through August

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of 2002, when compared to the same period for 2001. Based on these figures, the total number of passengers in 2002 could be as low as 51 million. As reported to your Board on August 30, 2002, Mayor Hahn's "Fifth Alternative" of the LAX Master Plan calls for a maximum annual passenger volume of 78 million, which coincides with the limit that would be imposed by HR 5144.

The County's Federal Legislative Agenda adopted on February 5, 2002 supports regional alternatives to the expansion of LAX. On July 31, 2001, the Board adopted a motion to support HR 2477, which was introduced by Congresswoman Waters on behalf of the County, and which would have limited the expansion of LAX to 80 million passengers. Support of HR 5144 is, therefore, consistent with Board policy and prior Board actions.

DEJ:GK  
DRS:zo

c: Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors  
County Counsel  
Department of Public Works  
Legislative Strategist